

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims**

Claims 1 – 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (new): A wire guide/nozzle assembly for an electric arc welding torch, comprising:

- a) at least one nozzle for delivering gas, said nozzle comprising a first axis longitudinally oriented with said nozzle; and
- b) at least one wire-guide system for guiding at least one consumable wire, said wire-guide system comprising a first section, said first section comprising the downstream end of said wire-guide system, said first section further comprising a second axis longitudinally oriented with said first section,

wherein said downstream end directs said consumable wire into said nozzle.

Claim 14 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said nozzle further comprising a peripheral wall, said peripheral wall having at least one cut-out through which said wire-guide system passes.

Claim 15 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said wire-guide system is fastened to said nozzle.

Claim 16 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said first axis and said second axis are oriented at an angle between about 10° and about 70° relative to each other.

Claim 17 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 16, wherein said first axis and said second axis are oriented at an angle between about 15° and about 45° relative to each other.

Claim 18 (new): The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said wire-guide system is hollow and generally oblong shaped.

**Claim 19 (new):** The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 18, wherein said wire-guide system has the shape of a hollow tube, said hollow tube having an internal diameter between about 0.6 mm and about 2 mm.

**Claim 20 (new):** The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said wire-guide system further comprises a second section parallel to said first axis contiguous with a third section, said third section comprising a curved part, wherein said second section and said third section are located outside said nozzle.

**Claim 21 (new):** The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 20, wherein said second section comprises third axis, the distance separating said third axis from said first axis being less than about 30 mm.

**Claim 22 (new):** The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 13, wherein said nozzle further comprises attachment means for attaching said nozzle to a welding torch.

**Claim 23 (new):** The wire guide/nozzle assembly according to claim 22, wherein said attachment means comprises a thread provided on the outer peripheral wall of said nozzle.

**Claim 24 (new):** A TIG welding torch, comprising at least one wire guide/nozzle assembly for an electric arc welding torch, comprising:

- a) at least one nozzle for delivering gas, said nozzle comprising a first axis longitudinally oriented with said nozzle; and
- b) at least one wire-guide system for guiding at least one consumable wire, said wire-guide system comprising a first section, said first section comprising the downstream end of said wire-guide system, said first section further comprising a second axis longitudinally oriented with said first section,

wherein said downstream end directs said consumable wire into said nozzle.

Claim 25 (new): The TIG welding torch according to claim 24, further comprising a non-consumable electrode placed relative to said wire-guide/nozzle assembly in such a way that said consumable wire conveyed by the wire guide penetrates said nozzle, wherein the angle between said first axis and said second axis is between about 5° and about 50°, wherein said consumable wire and said electrode lie in one and the same plane.

Claim 26 (new): The TIG welding torch according to claim 25, wherein the angle between said first axis and said second axis is between about 10° and about 30°.

Claim 27 (new): The TIG welding torch according to claim 25, further comprising a mounting onto which said wire-guide/nozzle assembly is fitted in a predefined position.

Claim 28 (new): A robotic welding unit, comprising at least one robotic arm comprising a TIG welding torch, further comprising at least one wire guide/nozzle assembly for an electric arc welding torch, comprising:

- a) at least one nozzle for delivering gas, said nozzle comprising a first axis longitudinally oriented with said nozzle; and
- b) at least one wire-guide system for guiding at least one consumable wire, said wire-guide system comprising a first section, said first section comprising the downstream end of said wire-guide system, said first section further comprising a second axis longitudinally oriented with said first section,

wherein said downstream end directs said consumable wire into said nozzle.